

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information retrieval system in which a set of distinct information items map to respective nodes in a self-organizing map by mutual similarity of the information items, so that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions in the self-organizing map, wherein the self-organizing map is trained upon reduced dimension characterizations of the information items, the system comprising:

a user control ~~for defining~~ configured to define a search criterion for selecting a subset of the information items represented by the self-organizing map, the search criterion being applied using a standard keyword search technique;

a detector ~~for detecting~~ configured to detect those positions within the self-organizing map corresponding to the subset of the information items selected by the standard keyword search technique;

a graphical user interface ~~for displaying~~ configured to display points representing only those positions within the self-organizing map corresponding to the selected subset of information items; and

a processor, responsive to the selected subset of information items ~~defined by selected~~ using the search criterion, for providing configured to provide one or more representations representative of the information content of the selected subset of information items,

wherein each of the information items ~~include at least~~ represented by the self-organizing map includes image data; and

wherein the processor is responsive to the selected subset of information items and ~~displays~~ causes the graphical user interface to display one or more images obtained from the image data included in the selected subset of information items ~~defined by selected~~ using the search criterion so as to represent the content of the selected subset of information items.

2. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the graphical user interface is ~~operable~~ configured to display a two-dimensional display array of the said display points.

3. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 2, in which a dither component is applied to the mapping between information items and nodes in the self-organizing map so that information items that share a node tend to map to closely spaced, but different positions in the displayed array.

4. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 2, in which the information items are mapped to nodes in the self-organizing map on the basis of a feature vector derived from each information item.

5. (Original) A system according to claim 4, in which the feature vector for an information item represents a set of frequencies of occurrence, within that information item, of each of a group of information features.

6. (Original) A system according to claim 5, in which the information items comprise textual information, the feature vector for an information item represents a set of frequencies of occurrence, within that information item, of each of a group of words.

7. (Original) A system according to claim 1, in which the information items comprise textual information, the nodes being mapped by mutual similarity of at least a part of the textual information.

8. (Original) A system according to claim 6, in which the information items are pre-processed for mapping by excluding words occurring with more than a threshold frequency amongst the set of information items.

9. (Original) A system according to claim 6, in which the information items are pre-processed for mapping by excluding words occurring with less than a threshold frequency amongst the set of information items.

10. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the said user control comprises:

search means for carrying out a search of the information items represented by the self-organizing map;

the search means and the graphical user interface being ~~arranged~~ configured to cooperate so that only those display points corresponding to the subset of information items selected by the search means are displayed on a ~~the~~ user display.

11. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the said processor is ~~operable~~ configured to detect clusters of similar information items and to provide representations representative of the information content of the respective clusters.

12. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the processor is ~~operable~~ configured to provide ~~the or~~ each ~~[[said]]~~ representation on a ~~the~~ user display as a label of the display points corresponding to the information items represented thereby.

13. (Original) A system according to claim 12, wherein the label is a word or set of words.

14. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 11, wherein the processor determines, in respect of a set of information items with which a label is to be associated, the most frequently used word or set of words in the information items corresponding to the selected subset of the information items and applies that word or that set of words as the label.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the said processor is ~~operable~~ configured to select, from the ~~set of~~ image ~~[[items]]~~ data, an image ~~[[item]]~~ which is representative of the ~~set of~~ image ~~[[items]]~~ data as a whole according to a predetermined selection criterion.

17. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the processor is ~~operable~~ configured to select ~~[[the]]~~ an image, ~~[[item]]~~ a property of which is nearest to the average of ~~[[the]]~~ a same property of the ~~said set of~~ image ~~[[items]]~~ data.

18. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the said one or more ~~representative image items~~ images are applied as labels to the display points corresponding to the information items represented thereby.

19. (Original) A portable data processing device comprising a system according to claim 1.

20. (Original) Video acquisition and/or processing apparatus comprising a system according to claim 1.

21. (Currently Amended) An information retrieval method in which a set of distinct information items map to respective nodes in a self-organizing map by mutual similarity of the information items, so that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions in the self-organizing map, wherein the self-organizing map is trained upon reduced dimension characterizations of the information items, the method comprising:

defining a search criterion for selecting a subset of the information items represented by the self-organizing map, the search criterion being applied using a standard keyword search technique;

detecting those positions within the self-organizing map corresponding to the subset of the information items selected by the standard keyword search technique;

displaying ~~at least~~ display points which are at positions representing only those positions within the self-organizing map corresponding to the selected subset of information items; and

in response to the selected subset of information items ~~defined by~~ selected using the search criterion, providing one or more representations representative of the information content of the selected subset of information items,

wherein each of the information items ~~include at least~~ represented by the self-organizing map includes image data; and

wherein the providing step includes displaying one or more images obtained from the image data included in the selected subset of information items ~~defined by~~ selected using the search criterion so as to represent the content of the selected subset of information items.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 21, wherein the displaying step displays a two-dimensional display array of the said display points.

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 21, comprising:
carrying out a search of the information items;
displaying on ~~[[the]]~~ a user display ~~[[that]]~~ only those display points corresponding to the subset of information items selected by the search ~~are displayed on the user display~~.

24. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 21, further comprising detecting clusters of similar information items and providing representations representative of the information content of the respective clusters.

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 21, further comprising providing ~~the or each~~ ~~[[said]]~~ representation on a ~~the~~ user display as a label of the display points corresponding to the information items represented thereby.

26. (Original) A method according to claim 25, wherein the label is a word or set of words.

27. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 21, further ~~in which the~~ ~~information items are at least associated with image items, and~~

comprising providing the one or more ~~image-items~~ images representative of the information content of the selected subset of information items ~~defined by~~ selected using the search criterion.

28. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 27, further comprising selecting, from the ~~set of~~ image ~~[[items]]~~ data, an image ~~[[item]]~~ which is representative of the ~~set of image-items~~ image data as a whole according to a predetermined selection criterion.

29. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 28, further comprising selecting the image₁[[item]] a property of which is nearest to the average of the same property of ~~[[the]]~~ said ~~set of~~ image ~~[[items]]~~ data.

30-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium storing a program which, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the method recited in claim 21.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing a program that, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to generate a user interface of an information retrieval system in which a set of distinct information items map to respective nodes a self-organizing map by mutual similarity of the information items, so that similar information items map to nodes at similar positions in the self-organizing map, wherein the

self-organizing map is trained upon reduced dimension characterizations of the information items, the interface comprising:

a user control for defining a search criterion for selecting a subset of the information items represented by the self-organizing map, the search criterion being applied using a standard keyword search technique; and

a graphical user interface configured to display points representing only those positions within the self-organizing map corresponding to the subset of information items selected by the standard keyword search technique and to display one or more representations representative of the information content of the subset of information items selected by the search criterion,

wherein each of the information items ~~at least include~~ represented by the self-organizing maps includes image data; and

wherein the graphical user interface is configured to display one or more images obtained from the image data included in the selected subset of information items ~~defined by~~ selected using the search criterion so as to represent the content of the selected subset of information items.

35. (Currently Amended) A user interface according to claim 34, wherein the said user control comprises:

search means for carrying out a search of the information items represented by the self-organizing map;

the search means and the graphical user interface being ~~arranged~~ configured to cooperate so that only those display points corresponding to the subset of information items selected by the search are displayed on the user display.

36. (Currently Amended) An interface according to claim 34, wherein the graphical user interface is ~~arranged~~ configured to display representations representative of the information content of respective clusters of similar information items.

37. (Currently Amended) An interface according to claim 34, wherein graphical user interface is ~~operable~~ configured to provide ~~the or~~ each ~~[[said]]~~ representation as a label of the display points corresponding to the information items represented thereby.

38. (Original) An interface according to claim 37, wherein the label is a word or set of words.

39. (Currently amended) An interface according to claim 34, wherein the said representations are ~~image items which~~ images that are applied as labels to the display points corresponding to the information items represented thereby.